(b) if so, by when the proposal is likely to be approved; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) The state Government of Uttar Pradesh in its communication No. 1853/12-2-98 dated 26-5-1998 had stated that urgent intervention of the Government of India was required to declare subsidy admissible on imported Di-Ammonium Phosphate and Muriate of Potash to avoid scarcity situation and consequent inconvenience to farmers.

The Government of India while announcing the Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilisers including Di-Ammonium Phosphate for Kharif 1998 season on 2nd April, 1998 had agreed to bear the additional subsidy required to keep the prices pegged at the levels announced. It had also entrusted the work of cost evaluation to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP), on the basis of which, appropriate rates of concession (subsidy) were to be arrived at. After considering the Report of the BICP, the Government has already announced the enhanced rates of concession for Kharif, 1998.

Special Programme in Orissa to Develop Agriculture

2311. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to launch any special programme to develop agriculture in the cyclone affected areas;

(b) whether the assistance of the agricultural scientists have been sought for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the programme proposed to develop agriculture in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A contingency plan has been evolved with the assistance of ICAR scientists to boost agricultural production in

cyclone affected areas of Orissa. The salient features of the programme include the following:—

(1) Supply of composite seed packets containing germplasm of vegetables likes spinach, radish, tomato, chilli, brinjal, cowpea, etc. so that nutritional requirements of cyclone affected areas are taken care of.

(2) Supply of tractors and power tillers to overcome the shortage of bullock power.

(3) Opening up of canals and their distributaries to ensure availability of fresh water for cultivation of rabi rice.

(4) Promotion of rabi maize (baby corn/sweet corn) and ragi as alternate crops in the place of damaged rabi paddy.

(5) Backyard rearing of poultry and goat on a priority basis to overcome the losses suffered by farmers.

(6) Promotion of brackish water pisciculture in the wake of ponds and tanks ingressed with sea water.

Loss of Land due to Tidal Waves

2312. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land that lost fertility due to tidal wave and sea water in Orissa;

(b) whether any step is proposed to be taken by Government to desilt the coastal land and to develop the same as cultivable land: and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) About 47,000 hectares of land in the coastal districts were inundated by the tidal wave in the recent Super Cyclone during Oct., 1999. The ingressed sea water has been pushed back by flood of sweet water that occurred within 24 hours. The ingressed salts might have been washed out by rains in most of the high lands. But in some low lying pockets, the ingressed sea water got locked up and remained standing in the rice field, being diluted to some extent by